

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

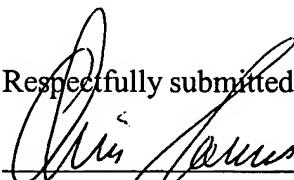
The present application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/585,098 filed on June 1, 2000 (the "parent application"). In a concurrently filed Request for Express Abandonment, the parent application has been expressly abandoned in favor of the present continuation application.

5 The Brief Description of the Drawings section of the present specification has been amended to address the issues raised in the Notice of Drawing Inconsistency mailed on March 5, 2004 in the patent application.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 of the present application are identical to independent claims 1 and 12 as those claims stood when allowed in the parent application (See Supplemental 10 Response dated 6/11/03, and Notice of Allowability dated June 16, 2003, in parent application). Dependent claims 2-10, 12-21 appear as they did prior to their cancellation for purposes of narrowing issues for appeal in the parent application (though they have been renumbered to account for the cancellation of claims 8 and 20 in the parent application).

15 In light of the fact that both independent claims in the present application were previously allowed in the parent application, Applicants request speedy allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
John Christopher James, Reg. No. 40,660  
Edwards Lifesciences LLC  
Law Department  
One Edwards Way  
Irvine, California 92614  
Telephone: (949) 250-6878  
Facsimile: (949) 250-6850  
Customer Number: 30452

20 Date: March 17, 2004

25